

Court to Get Sacramento Assessor's Plan

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District
One important law relating
to property taxation which
was passed earlier this year
may soon be given a rough
and far-reaching test in the
courts. This is the act which
provides that hereafter every
assessor must value all prop-
erty at a publicly announced
percentage of full market
value, which percentage must
be between 20 and 25 per
cent until 1971, when it goes
to a flat 25 per cent there-
after.

The court test will come
because of a unique situation
in Sacramento County which
is attracting statewide and
national publicity. The new
elected assessor of that coun-
ty has said that she will as-
sess all property at 100 per
cent of its full value because
our California Constitution
requires her to do so. The
storm which her proposal has
aroused is certain to have a
considerable influence on our
work on property taxation at
the 1967 session.

As the authority behind
her decision, she cites Sec-
tion 12 of Article XI of the
Constitution, which states,
"All property subject to tax-
ation shall be assessed for
taxation at its full cash
value". But opponents of her
idea quote another section of
the Constitution as support-
ing the present practice. Sec-
tion 1 of Article XIII states
in part, "All property in the
State . . . shall be taxed in
proportion to its value, to be
ascertained as provided by
law."

THE CONSTERNATION
caused by the assessor's pro-
posal was widespread. From
offices of the State Board of
Equalization came word that
if she were to put her idea
into practice there are two
legal methods the Board
could use to roll back her as-
sessment.

The Sacramento Board of
Supervisors is so concerned
about the effects of the plan
that it held a full scale hear-
ing on the matter which was
televised by the three net-
works. At this hearing the
assessor, who was flanked by

legal counsel, remained ad-
mired in her intention to pro-
ceed with 100 per cent
assessing.

DURING THE discussion at
this hearing, repeated refer-

ence was made to two 1964
California appellate court de-
cisions which support the cur-
rent practice of assessing prop-
erty at a fraction of its full
market value, both of which
have been upheld by the

Supreme Court. Among the
large school districts out of
the state mentioned in some
of the decisions is the Sacra-
mento County which is shift-
ing a large amount of prop-
erty taxes from public utilities
to homeowners, and discrimi-
natory taxation of business
enterprises, the knocking of some

One member of the Board
said the assessor's plan would
leave the field wide open for
gross inequalities at the ex-
pense of the county and its
citizens. "It would make Sacra-

mento County into a guinea-
pig to test the dubious as-
pirations of one individual,"
she is confident she will be
upheld. So whichever way the
hearing, the Board of Super-
visors moved unanimously to
take the matter into court
with us at our 1967 session.

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Pamphlet Ready on Assessor

A pamphlet explaining the procedures of assessing property in Los Angeles County has been authorized by the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Burton W. Chace said today.

The pamphlet, titled "What a Taxpayer Wants to Know," will be available soon at all offices of the county assessor, Chace said.

"This information piece will explain the functions and procedures of the assessor's office," he said.

"There is a lot of interest in assessment procedures," Chace said. "The information contained in this pamphlet will help the property owner to better understand his tax bill."

The pamphlet also will be available through the mail. Persons interested may contact the assessor's office in the Hall of Administration.

Child Welfare Meeting Slated

Two assistant principals and two curriculum consultants will represent Torrance Unified School District at the annual conference on curriculum development and child welfare in San Francisco Nov. 7-11.

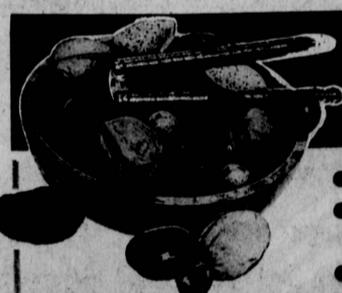
Attending the state conference will be Mrs. Gretchen M. Smith of West High and Eugene H. McCusker of North High, assistant principals, and Mrs. Mary Long and Mrs. Margaret Collin, curriculum consultants.

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